

LIBERTY LAKE TRAIL SYSTEM



Connecting the past and future



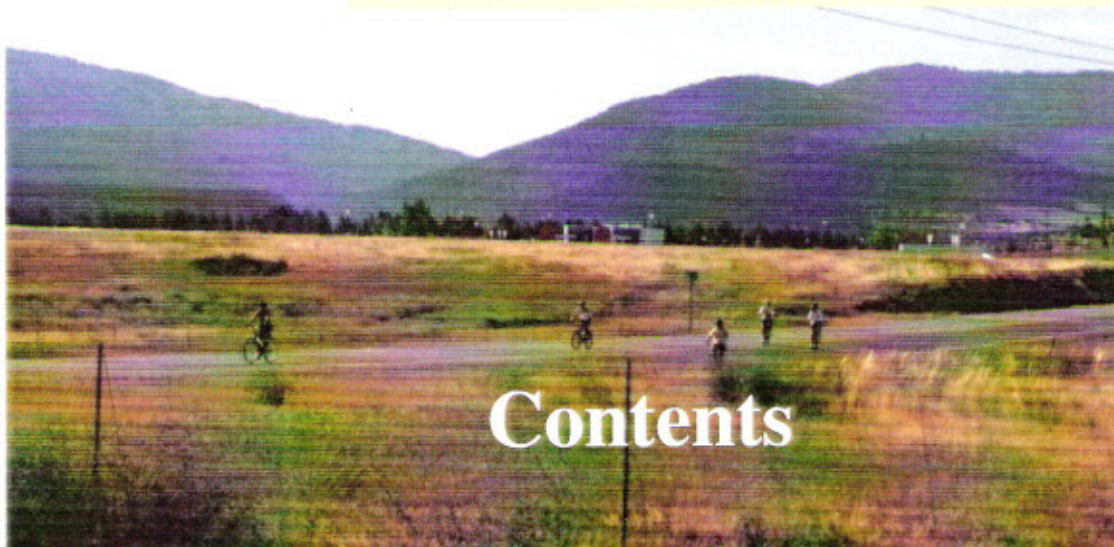
*by Tom Specht, Chair
Liberty Lake Trails Committee*

Trails enhance the quality of life in a community. They reduce commuter congestion, promote fitness, and even make school kids healthier and more self-sufficient. Trails link the community.

Liberty Lake is a community that uses trails. A lone jogger or groups of walkers are a frequent sight along the roads in the early mornings. Commuters are walking or riding their bikes to work and children dot the sidewalks on their way to school. The people working in the industrial area walk, jog, run, or ride during their lunch hour. The recreational walkers, joggers, and families are out during the evenings and weekends. Year around, Liberty Lake is a "walkable" community.

Expansion of the bicycle and pedestrian trail system has long been a goal of the Liberty Lake community. Founded on a rich history as a community recreation center and area of natural beauty, the Liberty Lake community has valued the opportunities for walking and biking within the area.

This report documents the public process and presents a plan to expand and provide trails within the Liberty Lake area, including an extension of the community trail system to the Centennial Trail. This report will introduce the Liberty Lake Community, the Liberty Lake Trails Committee, the process to fulfill the mission and goals, the trail plan, and its proposed implementation.



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History and Nature of Area

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Natural

Liberty Lake was created during the ice age 12,800 to 15,000 years ago when ice dams one half mile high blocking the Clark Fork River would give way. Catastrophic floods would thunder through the Spokane River Valley down the Columbia River to the ocean. The floods washed up a sand wall creating the north end of the lake and trapping the water of the lake behind it. The floods deposited gravel and boulders, which created the aquifer system that runs through the Spokane Valley. The Liberty Lake outlet channel, which exits at the north end of the lake, is a seasonal stream that provides an outlet for Liberty Lake during high water periods. This channel drains into the aquifer.

The Liberty Lake community is located in a valley with a lake framed by mountains on the east and south, opening to the Spokane River on the north. Interstate 90 cuts through the area just south of the Spokane River. The mountains on the east are covered with Ponderosa Pines and other evergreens while the mountains to the west give way to natural grasses, balsam root, wild syringa bushes, and other wildflowers. The mountains are home to white tail deer, mule deer, elk, bobcats, cougars, coyotes, black bears, and many other types of wildlife. The area attracts sixty to seventy bird species. The lake and river attracts bald eagles, osprey, mallards, Canadian geese, and occasionally trumpeter swans. The wetlands and creek attract many songbirds, the red ring black birds, coots, and the shy sora. The meadowlands attract the meadowlark, quail, partridges, pheasants, magpies,

sparrow hawks, and red tail hawks. The lake has trout, bass and is stocked with walleyes.

The lake itself is an important natural resource. It provides habitat for numerous species of fish, birds and mammals. The lake is very shallow and is susceptible to algae growth from excess nutrient levels. The marsh at the south end of the lake is a critical wetland and is nutrient rich. The lake is separated from the marsh by a man-made dike which was established to prevent the nutrients from the marsh from flowing into the lake and disrupting its fragile nutrient balance.

Cultural

An ancient Indian trail came from the south and went north over a shallow ford on the Spokane River near the port of entry to Washington from Idaho. This trail crossed the Mullan Trail that followed the Spokane River at this point. Indians were a common sight when the first settlers arrived.

In 1858 Col. George Wright was sent from Walla Walla with seven hundred soldiers to suppress an Indian outbreak. After two terrific battles they defeated the Indians, capturing eight hundred horses. To prevent the Indians from waging further warfare, Col. Wright had the animals killed on the banks of the Spokane River about two miles from Liberty Lake.

The Mullan Trail was completed in 1863 and Steve Liberty carried the mail over that trail. He homesteaded the west side of the lake in 1871, one year before Spokane's first settlers arrived. Another white man, Joe Peavy, came to Liberty Lake with Steve, homesteading a piece of ground on the northeast side of the lake. A Mr. Schrum bought Steve's homestead in 1889 and sold a portion of it to a young Scotchman named Roderick MacKenzie. There was an old Indian house on the MacKenzie place that was the birth place of an Indian Chief named Quinny Moses (pronounced Quinamosa.)

About 1890 cycling was quite the fad and bicyclists would come out from Spokane. Mrs. MacKenzie would feed the tired and hungry cyclist without charge. With growing popularity, the MacKenzie's soon opened a restaurant, then a hotel, which later burned down. Soon a roadhouse known as Zepher Inn became a popular night spot. Resorts on the lake and a dance pavilion were developed at this time. Development included a bathhouse, swimming beach, boat rentals, and camping and picnic areas. In 1907 rail service was extended to Liberty Lake and a five car train would run every half hour on Sundays and holidays. Part of the proposed bike trail will take the same path as the historic railroad right of way running along the scenic Liberty Lake outlet channel.

Today the people in Spokane and North Idaho use the lake, a 3,000 acre county park with beach access, the public boat launch, three area golf courses, and Pavillion Park. This trail system will offer a means to access these areas and the exceptional views surrounding them.



Liberty Lake was named after the French Canadian Steve Liberty. He homesteaded the West Side of the lake in 1871, just one-year before Spokane's first settlers arrived.

Community

Liberty Lake is a non-incorporated area in Spokane County located 17 miles east of downtown Spokane, two miles from the Idaho border. Currently over 4,500 residents live in Liberty Lake. The area has been designated as an "urban growth area" under the Growth management Act and will expand to 11,000 residents over the next seven to 10 years.

With a jobs to population ratio which exceeds one-to-one, Liberty Lake has more the feel of a self-sufficient small town than it does a "bedroom community" to Spokane. Because of this and the fact that the community is geographically separated from the Spokane Valley, the Liberty Lake area has developed a very strong sense of "neighborhood" and "community".

Attractive homes in a broad range of prices and styles, numerous recreational facilities, including three golf courses and two County parks, are found in the Liberty Lake community. Many residents work near where they live. A large number of people bike or walk to work. The parks and other recreational facilities are important pedestrian destinations in the community. Also many people use the Centennial Trail for recreation or to bike to work from the Spokane Valley, Spokane, and Post Falls.



The trails plan was well represented at the annual 4th of July community parade.

Liberty Lake Businesses

Liberty Lake has experienced significant commercial and industrial growth over the past 15 years. The light industrial park close to Interstate 90 houses several high tech businesses including:

- Hewlett Packard Spokane Division's RF wireless test instrumentation - 950 employees.
- Telect Inc. corporate headquarters, a telecom equipment provider - 730 employees.
- Software Spectrum, a business to business software provider - 580 employees.
- Wang, a banking software and equipment provider.

Retail commercial development has also been rapid over the past five years, as the residential community has grown. An Albertson's Grocery store is the anchor tenant of a shopping center, located near the Harvard Road and I-90 interchange, that includes restaurants and other services. Commercial development near the interchange will continue to grow.

Currently over 5000 people are employed in the Liberty Lake commercial and industrial developments. The number of jobs and businesses in the area has been expanding rapidly and is estimated to expand to 10,000 jobs over the next several years.



Telect Inc. is the second largest employer in the area with 730 employees.

Recreation

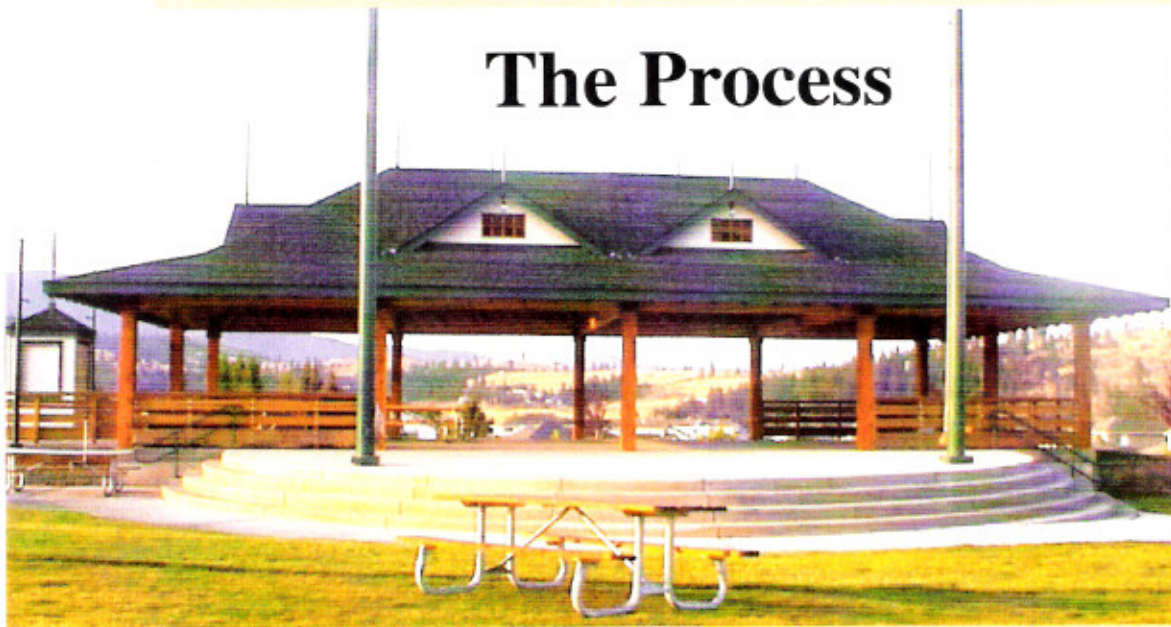
Liberty Lake has a long and rich history as a recreation area dating back to the late 1800's. While the lake itself is the heart, the community has wide-ranging recreational facilities:

- The Centennial Trail parallels the Spokane River as an existing off road trail. It is a continuous trail between Spokane and Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. It is accessible to the Liberty Lake area from either the Harvard Road or Stateline trailheads.
- Pavillion Park is a county owned community park and a focal point of the neighborhood. It provides recreational opportunities and an outdoor amphitheater for concerts and plays.
- Liberty Lake covers approximately 640 acres. Over the past 20 years several commercial resorts have closed, reducing the public access to one north side public boat launch and the County Park at the south end. Today there are no commercial resorts on the lake.
- The 3,000 acre Liberty Lake County Park is located on the south side of the lake. Within the park are horse, ORV, mountain bike, and hiking trails. The park also provides camping, swimming, picnicking and access to the outdoors.
- Three beautiful, economical and challenging golf courses entice golfers to the Liberty Lake area. They offer a variety of terrain and elevations.
- Private softball fields and a private indoor skating rink are located just off the north side of I-90.
- A 24-hour fitness center and health club is centrally located and within walking distance of both commercial and residential areas.



Meadowwood Golf Course is one of three courses in the area offering fabulous views and challenging golf.

The Process



Friends of Pavillion Park Trails Committee

Missions & Goals

Charette Survey Public Support

Friends of Pavillion Park

The Friends of Pavillion Park have guided the design, funding and development of Pavillion Park. The Friends of Pavillion Park is a nonprofit community based corporation and has been approved as a 501 (3) (c) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Pavillion Park is being built on land donated in September of 1992. Pavillion Park is assessed at about \$1.5 million with most of the funding coming from local fund-raising and Washington State grants obtained in cooperation with Spokane County Parks Department.

The park is networked with trails on all sides. It is the community's vision that the trails system will be an extension of the park. The Pavillion Park will serve as the hub for the trail system. The park provides a scenic rest stop and trailhead with restrooms and parking.

Liberty Lake Trails Committee

The Liberty Lake Trails Committee is a committee of local residents, which was formed under the auspices of the Friends of Pavilion Park. The committee was created when a survey of the com-

munity identified trails as a leading concern and valued amenity. The Trails Committee has worked to raise important awareness of bike and pedestrian routes and has worked successfully with Spokane County government to improve local facilities. The Trails Committee has been the focal point for the trail planning efforts, which have occurred over the past four years.

The Liberty Lake Trails Committee started with the involvement of fifty community members in 1995. The Committee began initial trail design workshops and this first effort resulted in an application, in 1996, for a grant from the National Recreation Trails Fund Act administered by Washington State. While the grant application was not successful, the community involvement, thought, and planning for this grant helped focus the community trail planning efforts. The Trail Committee became committed to developing an overall community trail and pedestrian plan.

The Liberty Lake Trail Committee has been keeping the community informed through meetings, workshops and community newsletters.

Mission

The mission of the Trails Committee is

- to develop attractive multiuse paths linking the community
- to provide connection to the Centennial Trail
- to increase bike and pedestrian safety
- to promote accessible outdoor recreation
- to encourage alternative means of transportation
- to reinforce community unity
- to enhance the natural and cultural features of the community

Goals

The goals of the Trails Committee is to complete the drafting and development of the overall community trails and pedestrian plan for submittal and adoption by Spokane County as part of their comprehensive land use and transportation plan. Upon adoption by Spokane County, it is the goal of the Committee to work for the phased implementation of the plan. This will require building a shared vision of the community landscape and community support for the various elements of the plan and funding alternatives.

Charette

In October of 1998 The Liberty Lake Trails Committee received an award of a technical assistance grant from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service to assist in planning a local path and trail system. RTCA staff helped plan and organize a special 3-day design brainstorming event (called a charette) involving community residents and multi-disciplinary professionals to develop a conceptual plan for our trail system. The charette was held April 16-18, 1999. The charette generated information and ideas used to prepare this document. The Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (WASLA) was a partner in the charette. No idea was discarded due to impracticality or disputable details. These decisions will be for the community to make later.

The Liberty Lake Trails Committee along with RTCA, and WASLA sponsored the charette. This charette was only the second to ever occur in the state of Washington and the only one this year. It is being used as a model to develop others across the nation. Landscape Architects from around the state donated a weekend of their time and experience to the design charette. The community had the opportunity to work with several teams of design professionals in the preparation of a conceptual path and trail plan for Liberty Lake. The productivity and success of the event depended on broad involvement from the community. Members of the community participated in the design process and two community meetings were held in conjunction with the charette.

Survey

A survey was prepared prior to the charette that served as a building block for the design effort. One hundred and fifteen responded to the survey sent to every home in Liberty Lake. The survey confirmed that the Centennial Trail, the Liberty Lake County Park, and Pavillion Park were important trail destinations and favorite outdoor places for the community. The survey also confirmed that the plan for an off-road trail along Liberty Lake Drive was a top priority.

Public Participation and Support

The Trails Committee and the Friends of Pavillion Park are committed to ensuring community involvement in the trails program.

The Friends of Pavilion Park has been successful in planning for Pavilion Park and obtaining support, time, and funds from the community, county and state. The Friends of Pavilion Park board strongly supports its Trails Committee's effort and has agreed to commit its resources to the trails plan. The community trail plan has received tremendous support from both the private and public sectors. The trail plan is the result of a two-year effort by over 50 community volunteers. Hundreds of community residents participated in community workshops and information meetings regarding the trail plan.

Many segments of the community have contributed to the implementation of the plan. Terris Design, a local landscape architecture firm, has provided "pro-bono" design services. The Greenstone Corporation has offered to donate the land for the Outlet Channel Trail. The Friends of Pavilion Park has worked with the Friends of the Centennial Trail and the Spokane County Parks Department to ensure that the trail plan provided important links to existing recreational areas.

Hewlett Packard, the Liberty Lake Sewer District and the Liberty Lake Property Owners Association have provided the Trails Committee with support for the trail system and have provided written commitments to jointly maintain the proposed trails.



Design team volunteers working on presentation materials at the weekend charette.



Landscape architects and community members working shoulder to shoulder at the design charette in April 1999.



Overview

Function, Form & Character

Existing Trail System

Country Vista, Molter, Mission, Appleway

Proposed Trail Plan

Centennial Trail Connections

Central Corridors

Around the Lake

Overview

The focus of the trail plan is to develop a system of interconnected pathways designed to meet the recreational, commuting, conservation, and cultural needs of the Liberty Lake community. As such the trail plan will provide both a physical link and the backbone of a broader social connection within the Liberty Lake community. The setting for the trail plan roughly coincides with the boundary of the Liberty Lake Sewer District (LLSD.)

The basic ingredients of the trail plan are its design components- the function, form and character it manifests as it passes through the landscape of the community. To be successful, any path must flow from place to place in a continuous manner. It must connect places with each other. These characteristics, continuity and connection are fundamental to the trail plan developed for Liberty Lake. The function, form and character of the path are the physical means by which these intrinsic requirements are met.

Function

The trail components within the plan must have a variety of functions. They should be used as transportation routes for commuters and recreation paths for residents. The trails should also provide access to open spaces and vistas while at the same time buffering and protecting natural environments. The trail should not only connect places, but people, by providing opportunities for socializing, historical interpretation and education to further understanding the natural and cultural resources of the community.

Form

The trail components within the plan will take on a variety of forms depending upon its function, its location relative to natural and man-made features and development costs. In some cases the path may be a wide paved and separated trail, while in other locations it may be a gravel path or merely striping along a roadway.

Character

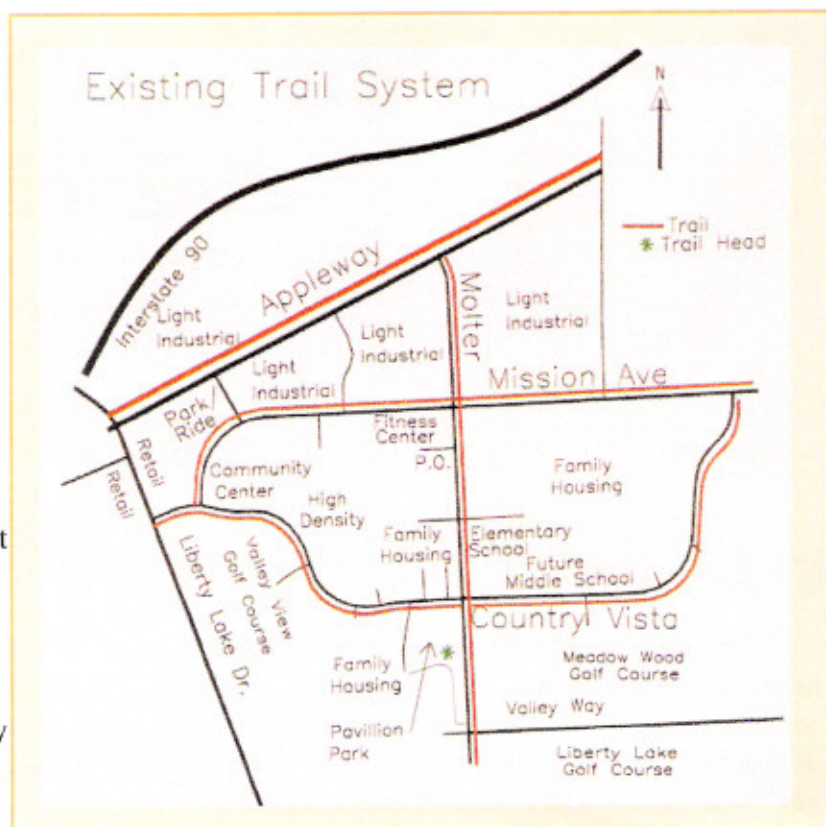
The trail components within the plan will have a character that changes from place to place but in ways that typify the landscape. The pathway should capture the ambience of that part of the community in which it is located, in ways that are interesting, educational and satisfying to all who use the path.

Existing Trail System

As part of the development of the Meadowwood master planned community, a core trail system has been developed. The following is a detailed description of each trail segment describing its character, function, form and unique opportunities.

Country Vista Drive

This area is developed urban cityscape. From the west developed retail center it transitions through high density residential development to lower density single family homes to the east. Along the way it passes the STA Park and Ride, the LLSD "Community Center," Five Fingers Park, Pavillion Park, Liberty Lake Elementary School and the Meadowwood Golf Course.



Existing amenities: The STA Park and Ride provides connections to downtown Spokane. The LLSD "Community Center" serves public meetings and gatherings and has parking and restrooms. Five Fingers Park has benches and playground equipment. Pavillion Park has numerous amenities including parking and restrooms and is an important trail system destination. The Liberty Lake Elementary School has playground equipment and ball fields. The roadway and trail interface with the Meadowwood Golf Course with views of the mountains to the east.

Function: This section of the trail is both an important commuting route and recreational corridor.

Form: This segment includes a dedicated bike lane on the roadway as well as a paved 10-12 foot pathway separated from the roadway with a tree-lined landscape strip.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Farmers Market: Intersection of Country Vista and Mission could be used for a market.
- Outdoor classroom/Xeroscape garden: Learning environment behind community center.
- Gateway feature: Signs introducing trail system, parks and historical features.
- Focal Point: Ideal for interpretive signage, community bulletins and gathering sights.
- Scenic Vista: Views above Meadowwood Golf Course.
- Connection to School: Direct connections to school ball fields.



Country Vista Drive near Five Fingers Park.



Looking south on Molter just past the Liberty Lake Post Office.

Molter To Valleyway

This area is developed urban cityscape. It begins at the north from the developed light industrial center and passes through lower density single family residential areas in Meadowwood to older residential areas surrounding the north end of the lake. Molter terminates at the lake near Inlet. Along the way it passes the community health and fitness club, post office, Pavillion Park, Liberty Lake Elementary School, Meadowwood and Liberty Lake golf Courses.

Existing amenities: The fitness center is a membership facility and includes parking, a basketball court and swimming pool. Pavillion Park and the elementary school have numerous amenities listed above. The existing trail terminates at Valley Way but the roadway continues south to interface

with the Meadowwood and Liberty Lake Golf Course. Molter ends with views of the lake and mountains at Inlet Drive.

Function: Both a community route and recreational corridor.

Form: Dedicated and signed roadway bike lane as well as a paved 10-12 foot pathway separated from the road with a tree lined landscape strip.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Outdoor Classroom/Natural Areas: Native Plant area developed as part of Pavillion Park.
- Stewardship Opportunities: Native plant enthusiasts could enhance and maintain sections.
- Gateway Feature: Signs introducing trail system, parks and historical features.

Mission Avenue

This area is developed urban cityscape. It begins at the west from the developed retail center and passes through commercial and high density residential areas to Molter. From Molter east to Country Vista, Mission is a transition from the light industrial uses on the north, to the single family residential uses on the south. Along the way it passes the LLSD "Community Center", the STA Park and Ride, the community health and fitness club and numerous large employers.

Existing amenities: The STA Park and Ride has transit access and parking. The LLSD building has parking. The fitness center has parking, a basketball court and swimming pool.

Function: This section is an important commuting route and limited recreational corridor.

Form: Dedicated bike lane as well as a six foot concrete sidewalk on both sides of the roadway separated with a landscape strip. East of Molter a 10 foot paved pathway will be constructed on the south side of the road.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Separate Paths: Planned as part of the Meadowwood Development, Molter and Country Vista trail segments will be looped east of Molter, enhancing recreational aspects.
- Ribbon of Green: Tree planting in the strip separating the path from the roadway will improve safety and aesthetics.

Appleway

This area is developed urban cityscape. It begins at the west from the developed retail center and passes through light industrial uses to agricultural and undeveloped lands, terminating at Idaho Road near the state line. Along the way it passes numerous large employers.

Existing amenities: Retail center at west.

Function: Important commuting route.

Form: Dedicated bike lane on the roadway as well as a six foot concrete sidewalk on both sides. The sidewalk is not separated from the roadway with landscaped strip. The sidewalk is not yet constructed east of Molter.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Separate Paths: A separation between the roadway and the sidewalk and/or pathway would be desired and could be incorporated into future roadway construction or redevelopment.
- Ribbon of Green: Tree planting along the roadway will enhance safety and aesthetics.

Proposed Trail Plan

The Liberty Lake community changes in character and landscape as you travel from the I-90 corridor south and then around the lake. The surrounding landscape creates unique opportunities for trail development, recreation, transportation, conservation and interpretation. The Trails Committee divided the community into three separate areas for the purpose of developing the trail plan, incorporating in each the uniqueness of the landscape, opportunities and constraints. The defined planning areas are:

1. Centennial Trail Connections: This incorporates the area north of Appleway from Liberty Lake Drive east to the state line. This portion of the plan defines how connections can be made to the Centennial Trail from the Liberty Lake community for both commuters and recreational trail users.

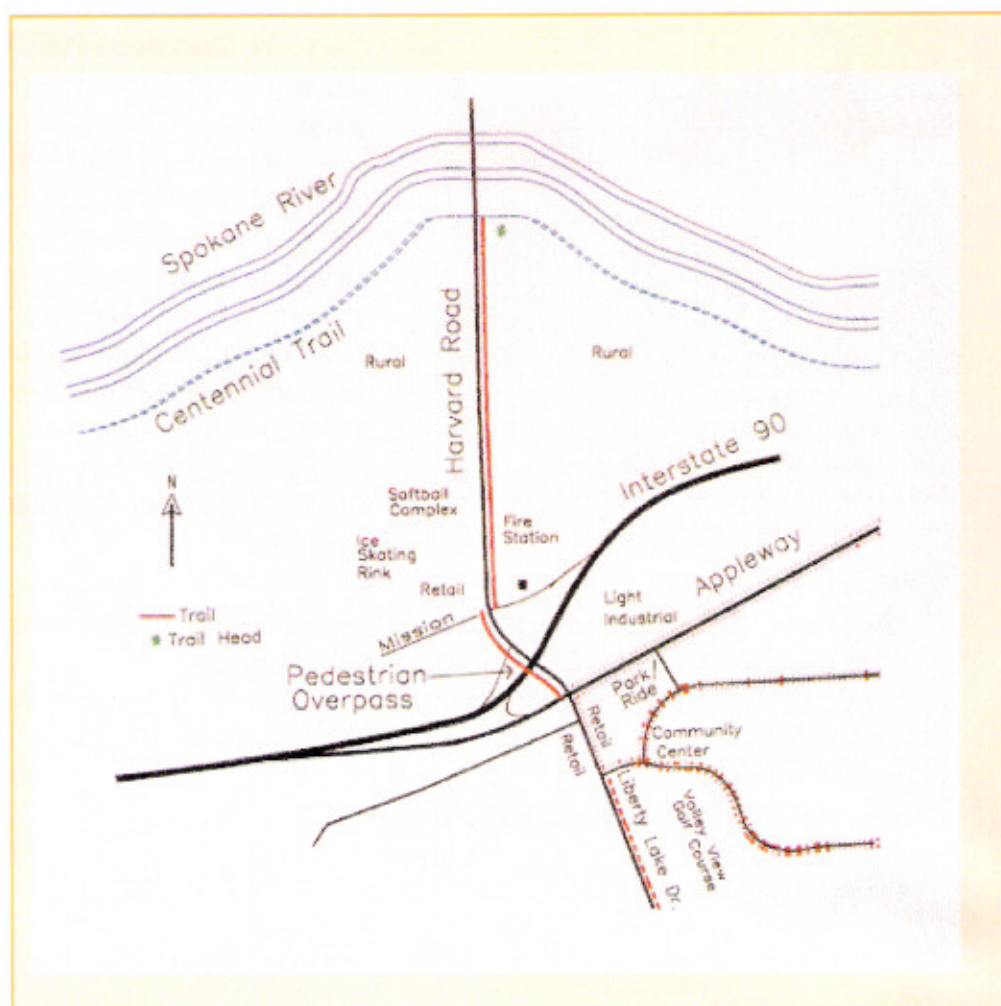
2. Central Corridors: This area includes most of the developed urban core of the community and runs from Appleway on the north to Sprague Avenue on the south. This area is primarily urban in character and incorporates most of the residential population and nearly all of the commercial and industrial development in the community.

3. Around the Lake: This includes the area south of Sprague and the areas around the lake. Urban development at the north end of the lake transitions to rural and undeveloped forest lands as you move south.

Centennial Trail Connections

Harvard Road Centennial Trail Connection

This area is developed commercial, rural and natural open space. It begins at the intersection of Appleway and Liberty Lake Rd. and continues north over I-90 along Harvard Road to the Spokane River. The route crosses the freeway on an existing two lane bridge. Harvard Road is very narrow from I-90 to the river.





Top & Middle: The route over I-90 is challenging for cyclists due to the narrow lanes and merging traffic. Bottom: Centennial Trailhead at Harvard Road is a favorite trail connection with ample parking.

Existing Amenities: The route passes a retail commercial area at Harvard and Mission and a softball and ice skating sports complex. A developed trailhead, including parking for the Centennial Trail, exists at Harvard Road and the Spokane River. The Centennial Trail follows the Spokane River with frequent viewpoints in this area.

Function: This section of trail is both an important recreational corridor and commuter route.

Form: This segment of trail should include a 10-12 foot separated path. An expanded roadway pavement to accommodate an "on the road" bike lane should be provided when Harvard Road is improved. A separate pedestrian and bicycle path and structure to be located immediately adjacent to the Harvard Road structure on the west side of I-90 overpass. This new facility should consider the ultimate alignment and profile of the future west-bound entrance ramp.

Concepts and Opportunities:

- Pathway connections: A primary connection to the Centennial Trail and the existing Harvard Road trailhead for recreational users and commuters.

- Gateway feature: This segment could provide the northern gateway to the community trail system. Signs could provide orientation introducing and describing the community trail system, parks and historical features.

- Pedestrian Overpass: The bond for the Transportation Benefit District could help fund the overpass. The Washington State Department of Engineering and the Spokane County value engineering team have recommended providing the structure.

Constraints:

- Additional right of way may be necessary east of Harvard Road for a separated trail.
- The location of the fire station impedes trail alignment.
- Right of way and/or access easement necessary for a separate pedestrian bridge over I-90.

Partners:

Spokane County
Washington State Department of Transportation
Fire District No. 1
Liberty Lake Sewer District

State Line Centennial Trail Connection

This area is developed industrial, rural and natural open space. It begins at the intersection of Appleway and Molter and continues south to Idaho Road at State Line. This route parallels Appleway to Simpson road then follows the abandoned Milwaukee Road right-of-way to Idaho road and the Centennial Trail. Most of the route is rural in character.

Existing amenities: The route is relatively flat and contains stands of native Ponderosa Pine.

Function: This section is both a recreational corridor and commuter route.

Form: This segment of trail should include a 10-12 foot separated path for recreational users. An expanded roadway pavement to accommodate an "on the road" bike lane for commuters already exists on Appleway.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Pathway Connections: Allows for primary connection to Centennial Trail and the existing State Line trailhead for recreational users. Commuters may continue to use Appleway.

- Gateway feature: Eastern gateway to the community trail system. Signs could provide orientation introducing and describing the trail, parks and historical features.

Constraints: Additional right of way may be necessary south of Appleway along the Hewlett Packard campus in order to construct a separated trail.

Potential Partners:

Spokane County
Hewlett Packard

Central Corridors

This area includes most of the developed urban core of the community and runs from Appleway on the north to Sprague Avenue on the south. This area is primarily urban in character and incorporates most of the residential population and nearly all of the commercial and industrial development in the community.

Molter Road

This area is developed urban cityscape. Molter is a main arterial through high density residential areas to lower density along the golf courses.

Existing amenities: The existing trail terminates at Valley Way but the roadway continues south to interface with the Meadowwood and Liberty Lake gold courses, ending with views of the mountain and lake at Inlet.

Function: Both an important commuting route and recreational corridor.

Form: This trail should include a 10-12 foot separated path on the east side of the roadway and "share the road" signage.

Concepts and Opportunities:

- Pathway connections: this trail will allow connections east on both Valley Way and Sprague to the golf courses and residential neighborhoods.

- Ribbon of Green: a planting strip and street trees will extend the Molter Road streetscape to the south connecting it visually to the lake.

Constraints: The grade at the Sprague intersection is a barrier to an effective connection east on Sprague. Right of way acquisition from the Liberty Lake Golf Course would enhance the intersection function.

Potential Partners:

Adjacent property owners
Spokane County

Valley Way and Sprague (east of Molter)

This area is developed urban cityscape. It begins at Molter and continues east, adjacent to the golf courses, transitions to acreage tracts and undeveloped forest land.

Existing amenities: The existing trail on Molter ends at Valley Way. Both Valley Way and Sprague provide views of the golf courses and mountains.

Function: Important recreational corridor.

Form: This section should include a 10-12 foot separated path on the north side of both roadways.

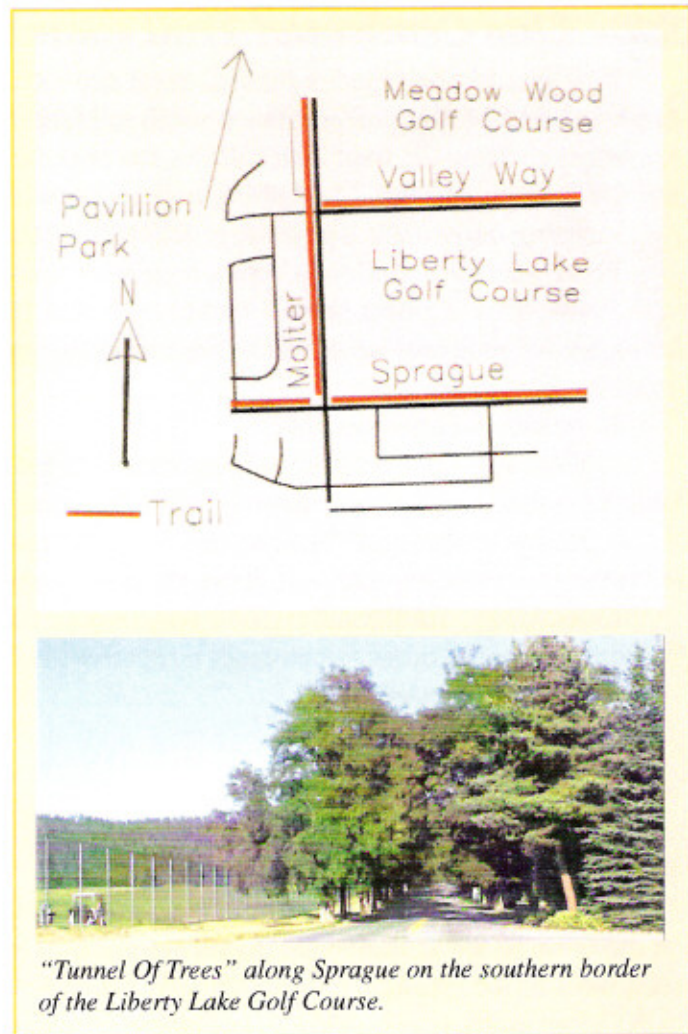
Concepts and Opportunities:

- Pathway Connections:** This segment will make connections to the golf courses and residential neighborhoods.

Constraints: Adequate right-of-way exists on both Valley Way and Sprague, however, some trees may have to be relocated to make way for a path. Some golf course property may be required.

Potential Partners:

- Adjacent property owners
- Spokane County



Sprague (west of Molter)

This area is developed urban cityscape. It begins at Molter at the Liberty Lake Golf Course and continues west. The landscape is residential, transitions to wetlands at the intersection with Liberty Lake Road.

Existing amenities: The trail will cross the outlet channel from the lake and the adjacent wetlands. The wetland area provides natural habitat for wildlife.

Function: Important recreational corridor and limited commuting route.

Form: This segment should include a 10-12 foot separated path on one side of the roadway and signage for commuters.

Concepts and opportunities:

- Pathway Connections:** Provides an important trail loop allowing east-west connections between Liberty Lake Road and Molter.

- Outdoor Classroom:** The wetlands and outlet channel provide an opportunity for an outdoor learning environment focusing on wetland function, hydrology, water quality and wildlife habitat.

- Pocket Park:** Land is available through Greenstone Corporation for a small park and/or trail head parking area north of the roadway near the outlet channel.

Constraints: Right of way acquisition or relocation of the roadway centerline may be necessary to create adequate space for a separated trail.

Potentail Partners:

Adjacent property owners
Spokane County
Greenstone Corporation
Liberty Lake Village Property Owners Assoc.

Liberty Lake Road

This area is developed residential and natural open space. It begins at the retail center and travels south along the Valley View Golf Course, wetlands and natural open space, terminating at Inlet Drive. The lake outlet channel is a 75 foot corridor between the roadway and the golf course.

Existing amenities: The lake outlet channel corridor encompasses wetlands and natural wildlife habitat. The channel itself provides a seasonal outlet for the lake and most years will contain flowing water during the spring runoff. In the early 1900's the outlet channel was used to draw water off the lake to irrigate orchards in the Spokane Valley. Between 1900 and 1930 rail service was used to access the lake along this same corridor.

Function: This section is both an important recreational corridor and commuter route.

Form: This segment should include a 10-12 foot separated path for recreational users and an expanded roadway pavement to accomodate an "on the road" bike lane for commuters.

Concepts and opportunities:

- Pathway connections: This trail will allow connections north-south between Country Vista and Inlet, providing an important trail loop.

- Outdoor classroom: The outlet channel, surrounding wetlands and wildlife provide the opportunity for an outdoor learning environment focusing on flora, hydrology, wetlands and water quality.

- Gateway feature: This segment could provide the gateway to the community trail system. Signs could provide orientation introducing and describing the community trail system, parks and historical features.

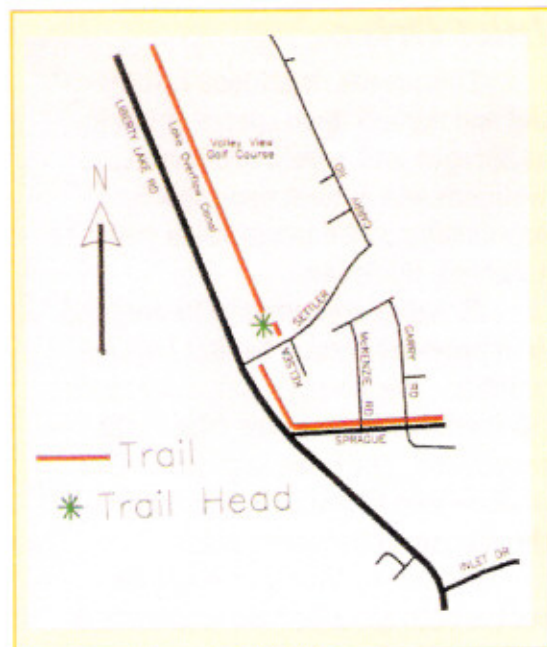
- Focal point: This segment of the trail, and particularly the outlet channel, is ideal for interpretive and orientation signage, and community gathering opportunities.

- Land acquisition and easements: This outlet channel corridor is available for trail development from the Greenstone Corporation. In conjunction with the Liberty Lake Sewer District, opportunities exist for outlet channel restoration and trail construction.

Constraints: Right of way acquisition or relocation of the roadway centerline may be necessary to create adequate space for an "on the road" bike lane. Wetland configuration and channel alignment may require one or more bridges to cross the channel. Interface with the golf course may require special screening or fencing. Additional right of way may be necessary south of Sprague in order to construct a separated trail .

Potential Partners:

Spokane County
Liberty Lake Sewer District
Greenstone Corporation
Friends of Pavillion Park



Inlet Drive

This area is developed residential and natural open space. It begins at Sprague and passes residential, wetlands and natural open space terminating at the intersection with Liberty Lake Road.

Existing amenities: The wetland area provides natural habitat for area wildlife. The route passes close to the lake with views over the lake to the mountains. The route is popular with walkers and affords the best views of the lake from the north end.

Function: This section of the trail is both an important recreational and commuting corridor.

Form: This segment of trail should include a 10-12 foot separated path on one side of the roadway.

Concepts and Opportunities:

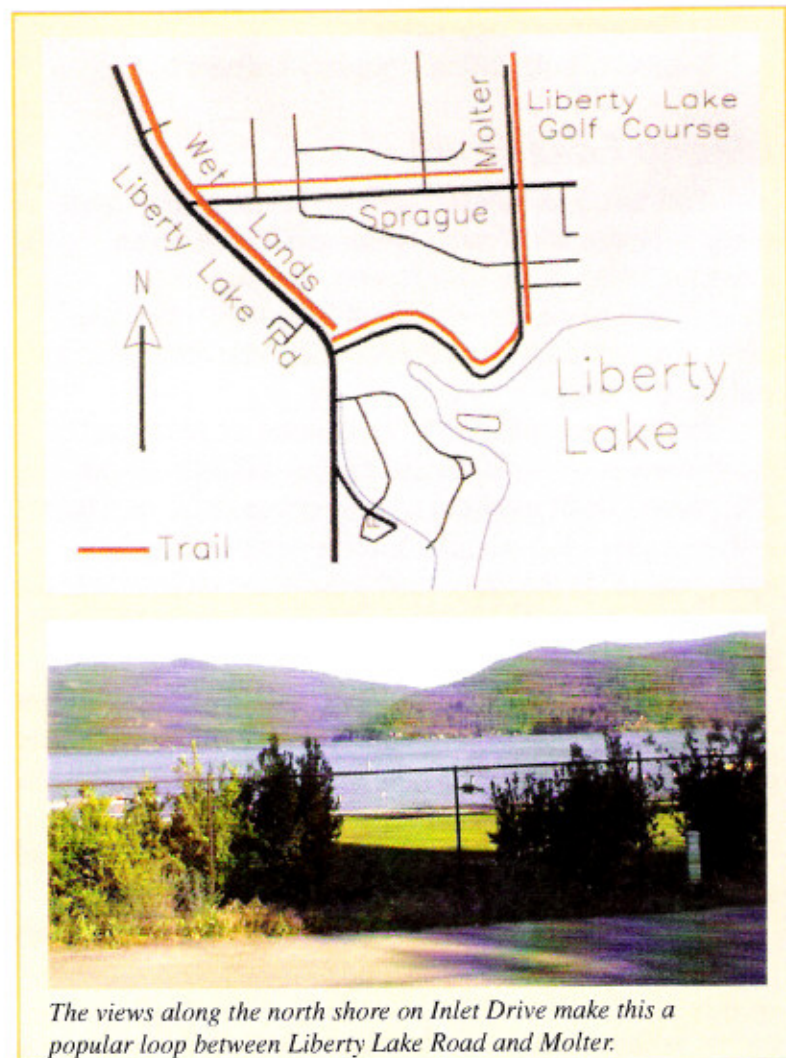
- Pathway connections: This segment will allow connections east-west between Liberty Lake Road and Molter, providing an important loop.

- View Points: There are opportunities for maintaining views of the lake along this route.

Constraints: Right of way acquisition or relocation of the roadway centerline may be necessary to create adequate space for a separated trail. Private ownership between the lake and the trail may eventually block lake view corridors.

Potential Partners:

- Adjacent property owners
- Spokane County
- Liberty Lake Sewer District
- Liberty Lake Village Property Owners Association



The views along the north shore on Inlet Drive make this a popular loop between Liberty Lake Road and Molter.

Around the Lake:

This includes the area south of Sprague and the areas around the lake. Urban development at the north end of the lake transitions to rural and undeveloped forest lands as you move south.

West Side of Lake (Liberty Lake Road to Liberty Creek Road)

This area is developed low density residential and natural open space. It begins at the Alpine Shores neighborhood and terminates at the south end of the lake at the end of Liberty Creek Road.

Form: Constraints prevent the development of a separate trail or pathway. Pedestrians, bicycles and motorists must share the existing roadway. The route should be signed as a "share the road" facility.

- Pathway connections: This trail segment will provide the opportunity for an "around the lake" loop.

- Outdoor Classroom:** The west side route and the natural environment provides opportunities to create an outdoor learning environment focusing on native plants, wildlife, and lake hydrology.

- Land acquisition and easements: There are opportunities for acquisition of the native open spaces on the west side of the lake. Acquisition would allow these areas to remain permanently in open space.

Potential Partners:

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Lakeside Trail (East side of lake)

This area is developed low density residential and natural open space. It begins at the Meadowwood Golf Course and terminates at the south end of the lake at the Liberty Lake Regional Park. This route passes through large lot and acreage home sites and the roadway generally separates the waterfront homes from the steep hillsides above the road.

Existing amenities: The lake itself is an important amenity along this corridor. There are fewer scenic vistas and viewpoints on the east side of the lake as the road runs further from the shoreline and the area is dominated by native ponderosa forest. Public access to the lake is available at the County regional park and the Fish and Wildlife boat launch. The forested hillsides above the road provide significant native flora and fauna and allow an easy connection to natural open spaces for the residents on this side of the lake.

Function: This section of the trail is both an important recreational and commuter corridor.

Form : The trail segment from the end of Valley Way at the Meadowwood golf course to the Liberty Lake County Park would be a paved 10-12 foot separated trail constructed on the uphill side of Lakeside.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Pathway Connections: This trail segment will provide the opportunity for an "around the lake" loop and would provide an important connection to the regional park.
- View Points: There are limited opportunities for maintaining views.
- Outdoor Classroom: The west side route and the natural environment provides opportunities to create an outdoor learning environment focusing on native plants, wildlife, and lake hydrology.
- Land acquisition and easements: There are opportunities for acquisition of the native open spaces areas on the west side of the lake. Acquisition would allow these areas to remain permanently in open space. Land acquisition or easements will be necessary for the construction of most of this trail segment.

Constraints: Private land ownership and difficult topography will make construction of this trail segment difficult and expensive.

Potential Partners:

- Spokane County
- Liberty Lake Sewer District
- Adjacent property owners
- Liberty Lake Property Owners Association

Marsh Dike Walkway

This area is located entirely within the Liberty Lake County Park boundary. A dike separates the marsh from the end of the lake itself and was constructed to prevent nutrients from flowing into the lake. This entire area is natural except for the developed portions of the park. The trails that interface the lake should not only provide views but should focus on the environmental aspects of the lake, interpretation and education, as well as providing the community as a whole with the opportunity to assume responsibility for the lake environment.

Existing amenities: The lake itself is an important aspect of this corridor and the views from the dike would be dramatic. Public access to the lake is available at the County Park, as are opportunities for picnicking, hiking and camping.

Function: The importance of this section is recreational as well as providing a west side link.

Form: The trail over the dike would be an elevated wooded walkway. On the west side a gravel based pathway would traverse the hillside to Liberty Creek Road.

Concepts & Opportunities:

- Pathway connections:** This trail segment would provide the opportunity for an “around the lake” loop and would provide an important connection to the County Park from the west side of the lake.

- View Points:** There are wonderful opportunities for view overlooks from the dike across the lake looking north and south toward the mountains and Mica Peak. The walkway could also provide the opportunity for fishing.

- Outdoor Classroom:** The marsh and the natural environment provides opportunities to create an outdoor learning environment focusing on native plants, wetlands and lake hydrology.

- Conservation/Stewardship:** the construction of the walkway could be done in a manner that stabilizes the dike and allows the dike to function more effectively. Raising the awareness of lake hydrology and water quality issues will help build a constituency for effective management.

Constraints: Wetlands mitigation, permitting issues and costs will make this trail segment difficult to implement. But perhaps even most important, there is a growing opposition from a large number of residents around this portion of the plan. Public concerns and opinions should be considered and plans changed accordingly.

Potential Partners:

Spokane County

Liberty Lake Sewer District

Liberty Lake Property Owners Association



The marsh at the south end of the lake offers wonderful opportunities for spectacular views, outdoor classrooms and education on the environmental issues surrounding the lake.

Implementation



Permanent Trails Committee Integration Into Existing Plans Building Partnerships Identify Funding Partnerships

This trail plan represents only one step in the process of making a community wide trail system a reality in the Liberty Lake community. A great deal of work and initiative will be required in order to move this plan from idea to reality. The following steps have been identified to start this process:

Permanent Trails Committee

The Trail Committee should be made a permanent committee to coordinate all further action on the Liberty Lake community trail plan. Membership should be expanded to include representation from potential partners. The Trails Committee should broaden the public participation in the planning and design of the overall trail plan and individual trail segments. The success of the plan will depend on the breadth and depth of community support.

Integration into Existing Plans

This plan should be presented to Spokane County and the plan should be integrated into their comprehensive land use and transportation plans. The trail plan should also be integrated into Washington State Department of Transportation plans for I-90. In addition the County should enact performance standards to ensure that elements of this plan are included in future public and private projects developed in the plan area.

Building Partnerships

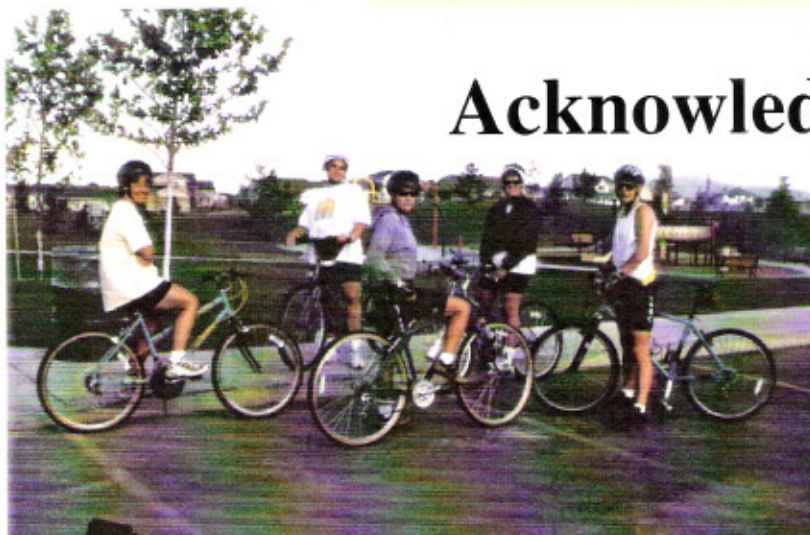
The Trails Committee recognizes the strength of partnerships that have allowed this plan to move forward. The National Park Service and Spokane County have been instrumental in getting this plan developed. The Liberty Lake Sewer District has offered its support. Many businesses and individuals continue to exhibit civic commitment to making the trail plan a reality. The Liberty Lake tradition of working together to reach a common goal is the key to implementing this plan. The community and the Trails Committee must continue to cultivate both ongoing and new partnerships. Opportunities for new alliances must be identified.

Identify Funding Partnerships

The Committee must identify and cultivate potential local business and corporate support. As well the Committee should pursue and apply for potential grants, both public and private.

The formation of a Transportation Benefit District is an opportunity for the entire community to have ownership in the trail plan and development. State law allows the formation of a special Transportation Benefit District by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners. The district boundary would encompass the area that would be benefited by development of the trail plan. After the District has been formed a small property tax assessment can be authorized by public vote with the funds used to assist in trail development and construction.

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